

Rurouni Kenshin

—RESTORATION—

2



Story and Art by
Nobuhiro Watsuki

SHONENJUMP MANGA

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2



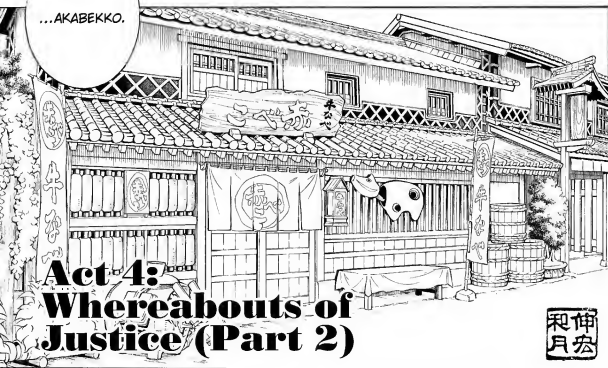
Rurouni Kenshin

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Calligraphy by Keita Amamiya.



*SIGN: AKABEKO GYUNABE



I KNEW
IT WAS
YOU...

LOOKS LIKE
YOU HAVEN'T
LOST YOUR
INTUITION.

I'M SURPRISED
YOU MADE IT
HERE USING
JUST YOUR
MEMORY AND
WHAT LITTLE
CLUES YOU
HAD.

...SAITO.

NO NEED TO
WORRY. WE
ARE OLD
ACQUAIN-
TANCES.

YOU LOOK
SCARY EVEN
WHEN YOU'RE
SMILING.

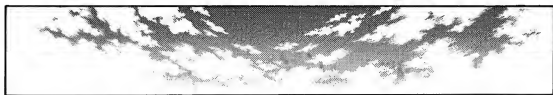
HEH

IT'S
BEEN TEN
YEARS.
DON'T
LOOK SO
SCARY.

WE HAVE
SOME
THINGS TO
DISCUSS.

PLEASE
GO AHEAD
AND START
WITHOUT
ME.

KENSHIN,
WHO IS
THIS...?



AND
SO?

WHAT IS
IT THAT
YOU WANT
FROM
THIS ONE?

THIS ONE
DOUBTS
WE
ACTUALLY
HAVE
THINGS TO
DISCUSS.



THIS ONE
DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO BE
A POLICE
OFFICER.

THE
SHINSENGUMI'S
ORIGINAL DUTY
WAS PUBLIC
SAFETY.

WHAT I'M
DOING NOW
ISN'T ALL THAT
DIFFERENT.



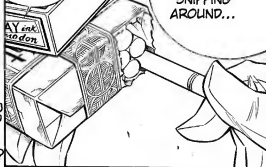
I THOUGHT YOU'D
STARTED A NEW
LIFE WITH THOSE
YOU PROTECTED.

I WAS
SURPRISED.
YOU'RE A
RUROUNI?



...TAKEDA
KANRYU
FOR A
CERTAIN
CASE.

I CAME
ACROSS
YOU WHILE
I WAS
SNIFFING
AROUND...



"I WANT TO
PROTECT
THE PEOPLE
AND LIVE
WITH THEM
IN THIS NEW
ERA."

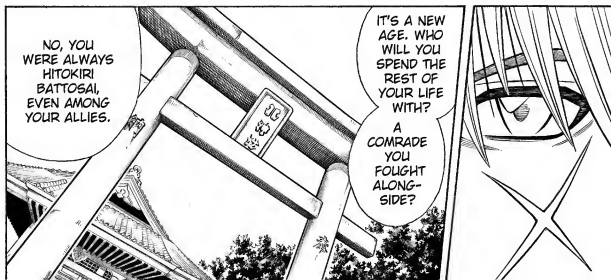
"MY JUSTICE
IS ABOUT
PROTECTING."



...I CAN
TAKE A
GUESS IF
YOU LIKE.

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
SPECIAL
INSIGHTS,
BUT...

WHY A
RUROUNI?



NO, YOU
WERE ALWAYS
HITOKIRI
BATTOSAI,
EVEN AMONG
YOUR ALLIES.

IT'S A NEW
AGE. WHO
WILL YOU
SPEND THE
REST OF
YOUR LIFE
WITH?

A
COMRADE
YOU
FOUGHT
ALONG-
SIDE?



WANDERING
AROUND
WITH A FAKE
SMILE...

AND
THAT'S
WHY...

WITH NO
PLACE TO
GO OR
RETURN
TO...

THIS ONE
DOESN'T
BELONG
ANYWHERE,
EVEN NOW.
THAT'S WHY
THIS ONE
IS...

...ISN'T
GOING TO
FREE YOU
FROM THE
POOL OF
BLOOD YOU
CREATED.

...I
SAID
YOU
WERE
NAIVE.

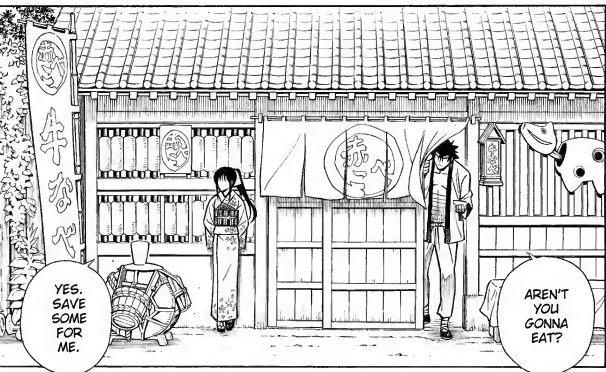
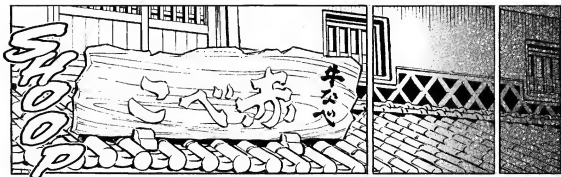
...A
RUROUNI.



...WHO
LIVED IN
HAPPINESS.

THIS ONE
COULD
NEVER FIND
A PLACE
AMONG
PEOPLE...





THOSE
THAT LIVED
DURING THE
BAKUMATSU
ERA...

...ARE
DIFFERENT.

YOU
GUYS
AREN'T
THE
SAME.

SURE... THEY WERE
FAKE IMPERIAL
SOLDIERS WHO
COMMITTED CRIMES
DURING THE CONFUSION
OF THE MEIJI
RESTORATION,
RIGHT?

EVER
HEAR OF
SEKIHOTAI?

WHAT
?

SORRY. IT
AIN'T YOUR
FAULT.

WHAP

OOPS.

SUK

...FOR A
CAPTAIN
OF THOSE
CROOKS.

悪

I USED
TO BE A
PAGE...



AND THAT
HE'D EVEN
KILLED
PEOPLE...

I FOUND OUT
LATER THAT
HE WAS
INVOLVED IN
SUBVERSIVE
ACTS
BEFORE THE
RESTORA-
TION.



HE WAS
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
REST.

HE WAS
STRONG
AND
COOL.

I STILL
RESPECT
HIM
FROM
THE
BOTTOM
OF MY
HEART.



THEY'RE
NOTICEABLY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
GUYS KANRYU
ASSEMBLED,
RIGHT?

WHAT
?!

THAT
OFFICER...
...AND
THE GUY IN
THE BLACK
STRAW
HAT WHO
SHOWED UP
YESTERDAY...



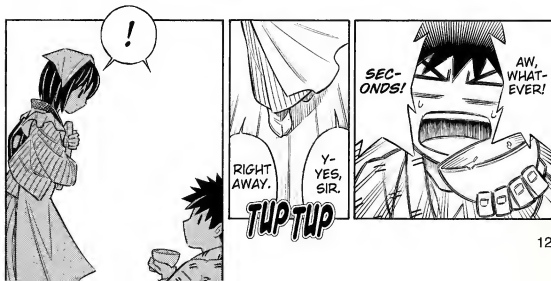
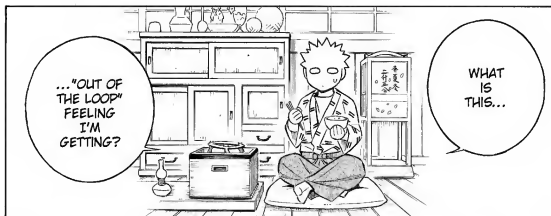
BE
PREPARED
TO STEP
BACK INTO
A POOL OF
BLOOD.

IF YOU
KEEP
WIELDING
THAT
PATHETIC
SAKABATO,
ONE DAY...



GUYS
WHO'VE
KILLED ARE
CLEARLY
DIFFERENT
FROM
GUYS WHO
HAVEN'T.

WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT, I
WOULDN'T
GET TOO
INVOLVED...





TSU-
BAME.

...YAHIKO,
BY ANY
CHANCE?

ARE
YOU...





HEH
HEH
HEH.

?!



NO, NO, NO.
THESE LOSERS
ARE NO MATCH
FOR HIM.

WILL
BATTOSAI
RETURN TO
HIS FORMER
SELF BY
FIGHTING
THESE
GUYS?



IF YOU
DON'T
MIND THE
REWARD
BEING
REDUCED
TO ONE-
FIFTH...

IF YOU
THINK YOU
GOT THE
SKILL, HOW
ABOUT YOU
JOIN US?

YOU
THE
SIXTH
IN
LINE?



WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY?!

NOW,
NOW.

YOU
BAS-
TARD!!

!!

SPOOSH

IT'LL
ONLY
BE A
WASTE
OF
TIME.

BATTOSAI
MAY WIN,
BUT HE'LL
NEVER KILL
THEM.

SO
I'LL
KILL
THEM.

ZRC



HEH
HEH
HEH

HEH
HEH
HEH

HEH
HEH
HEH



WHAT'S
NEEDED IS
TO TRIGGER
ENOUGH RAGE
AND HATRED
TO BLOW AWAY
HIS LOGIC AND
INTELLIGENCE.

YOU CAN
ATTACK
HIM WITH
NUMBERS
OR FORCE.

THOSE MAY
BE REASON
ENOUGH
FOR HIM TO
FIGHT, BUT
NOT ENOUGH
FOR HIM TO
KILL.

...A
SACRIFICE
IS
REQUIRED.



AND TO
AWAKEN
THAT IN
HIM...

FREE TALK 1

It's been a while. Watsuki here.

It's been almost a year since the first volume came out. The obvious difference in thickness between volume 1 and volume 2, as I wrote in another comment for this volume, is completely my fault. Nonetheless, this is the conclusion of *Rurouni Kenshin: Restoration*. Allow me to remind you that my comments here are merely a bonus. They have no bearing on the story, so to readers who feel they are unnecessary or are upset by them, please feel free to skip this section. Please.

Thankfully, the film *Rurouni Kenshin* has been well received. As I wrote in the first volume, a film belongs to the director. If I had to compare it to a family, it's like a child adopted by another family. So there's no need for Watsuki to be too worried. However, of course I can't say I have no attachment to it. Listening to people telling me they've watched it over and over on DVD and Blu-ray makes me feel glad that it has become a story loved by many.

One thing I felt vividly with the film adaptation is the difference in global recognition between comics and films. Watsuki is a hopeless manga artist who grew up reading manga and makes a living writing manga. In a world where the adult values are the standard, it seems that live-action films get greater recognition. Since my "manga fever" has always been too high, I didn't realize this. I knew it in my head, but I hadn't truly felt it. I was surprised to receive an offer to speak in my hometown. (Honestly, I don't like speaking in public, so I accepted the offer with the condition that it would be the only time. That may seem contradictory, but now I can freely turn down similar offers in the future. I purposely stepped in front of a bullet so I could then return back to my faraway base and barricade myself. It's a rather self-tormenting survival strategy.)

I am not saying film is better because of its higher degree of recognition. My biggest concern in adapting the story to film was letting down those who experienced the world of *Rurouni Kenshin* through the manga first.

IT
BRINGS
BACK...

...
MEMO-
RIES...

NOT
BAD.
THIS
SENSA-
TION...

Act 5: At Akabeko

HEH
HEH.

HEH.

...IS
DANGEROUS!

TH-
THIS
GUY...

...!

MUTTER

MUTTER



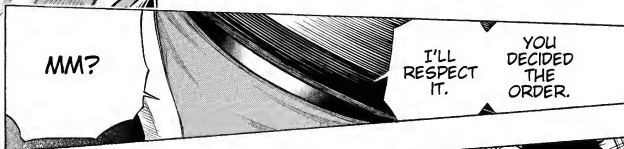
WHO'S EIGHTH?

WHO'S SEVENTH?

WHO'S SIXTH?

WELL.

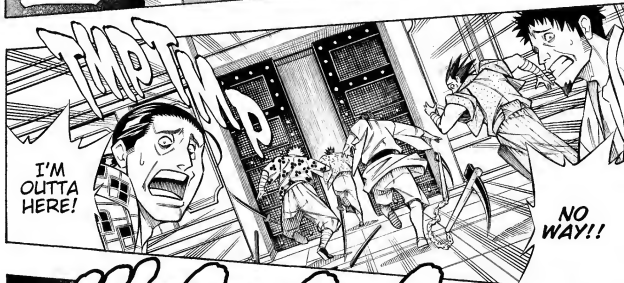
NEXT?



MM?

I'LL RESPECT IT.

YOU DECIDED THE ORDER.



I'M OUTTA HERE!

NO WAY!!



I AIN'T DYIN' HERE!

...AND
THIS IS
WHAT
WE'RE
LEFT
WITH?

THIS
FELLOW
SCARED
EVERYBODY
AWAY...

SO.

WELL ?
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU
GUYS
...?

IT WOULD BE
DANGEROUS TO
TRY TO PUT A
LEASH ON HIM.
IF HE'S AFTER
BATTOSAI, IT
MAY BE WISER
TO STAY OUT
OF HIS WAY.

HE IS
CLEARLY
...

...A
MADMAN.

...TWO
OR
THREE
MORE
SKEW-
ERS IF
YOU'D
LIKE.

I
COULD
BRING
YOU...

THIS
ISN'T
ENOUGH
...

...TO
SCARE
ME OFF.

I'LL KILL
THAT
BLACK
HAT IF
YOU WANT
ME TO!!

HA
HA!!

WOO

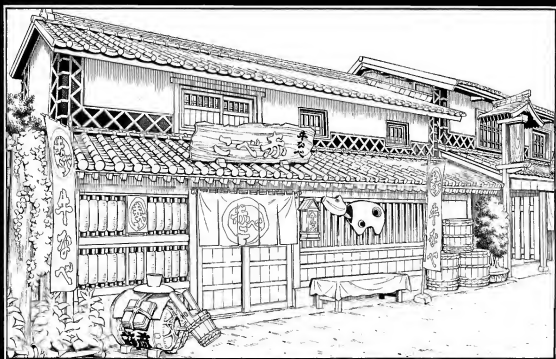
LEAVE
BATTOSAI
TO THE
MADMAN.

WE'LL
FINISH
OFF
KAMIYA
DOJO!

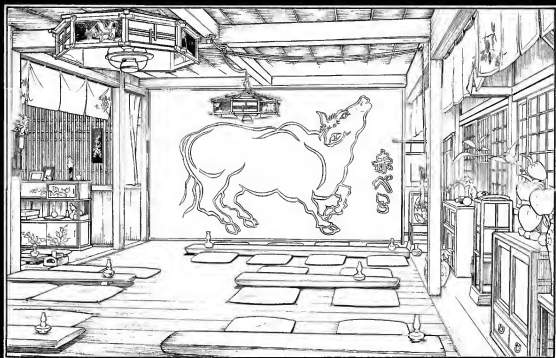
HUU...

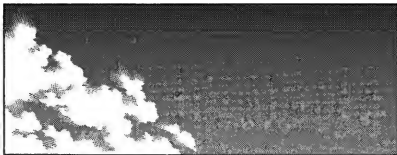
YOU GUYS
MIGHT BE
USEFUL...

ALL
RIGHT.



Act 5: At Akabeko





HE SHOWED
UP AT
KAMIYA
DOJO
YESTERDAY.

A MAN IN
A BLACK
STRAW
HAT...



UDO...

...JIN-E.



IS HE
ONE OF
YOUR
MEN?

A MAN
WHOSE
HANDS THIS
ONE PIERCED
WHILE
FIGHTING
YOUR
PEOPLE
DURING THE
BAKU-
MATSU...





HE WAS
KNOWN AS
"HITOKIRI
JIN-E"
AMONGST THE
TROOPS.

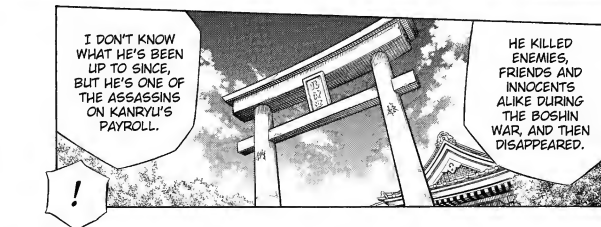
HE
ENJOYED
CUTTING
AND
BEING
CUT
EQUALLY.



HIS PRIMARY
MISSIONS WERE
ERADICATION,
ASSASSINATION,
AND DEALING
WITH
POWERFUL
ENEMIES.

HE WAS AS
SKILLED AS
ANY CAPTAIN,
BUT HE
WASN'T A
PART OF ANY
GROUP. HE
WAS TOO
DANGEROUS
TO INCLUDE
IN A UNIT.

*HITOKIRI MEANS "ASSASSIN."



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE'S BEEN
UP TO SINCE,
BUT HE'S ONE OF
THE ASSASSINS
ON KANRYU'S
PAYROLL.

HE KILLED
ENEMIES,
FRIENDS AND
INNOCENTS
ALIKE DURING
THE BOSHIN
WAR, AND THEN
DISAPPEARED.

!



NO...
IF ONLY
THAT
WAS IT...



...BUT
NOT
ENOUGH
TO KILL.

REASON
ENOUGH
FOR
HIM TO
FIGHT...



SO HE STILL
HOLDS A
GRUDGE
OVER WHAT
THIS ONE
DID TO HIS
HANDS.



HAVE
YOU RE-
NOUNCED
...
...AKUSO-
KUZAN,
YOUR
"SWIFT
DEATH TO
EVIL?"



YOU
QUIETLY
WATCH
TAKEDA
KANRYU,
WHO
BOUGHT
HIS
FREE-
DOM.

YOU'VE
LET JIN-E
ROOM
FREE
DESPITE
KNOWING
HIS
WICKED-
NESS.



YOU'VE
CHANGED.



WELL.
IT'S
BETWEEN
YOU TWO
KILLERS.

YOU
GUYS
FIGURE
IT
OUT.



I'M NOT
GETTING
INVOLVED.

IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK,
KILL HIM
YOURSELF.



SO CARRY
OUT YOUR
DUTIES
AS A
WINNER...

YOU'RE A
WINNER
OF THE
RESTORA-
TION. I'M
A LOSER.

...BEFORE
EXPECTING
ANYTHING
FROM THE
DEFEATED.



IT'S A
PLEASURE
TO MEET
YOU.

I WORK
HERE AT
AKABEKO
AS A
WAITRESS.

三
条
燕

SANJO
TSUBAME

I'M
SANJO
TSU-
BAME.

YES, I
GUESS
WE WERE.

KANDA? DOES
THAT MEAN
YOU'RE FROM
SAMURAI
FAMILIES?

WE WERE
NEIGHBORS IN
KANDA BEFORE
YAHIKO'S FAMILY
MOVED THREE
YEARS AGO.

...

SO SHE'S A
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND OF
YOURS,
YAHIKO?

CHNR

CHNR

CHNR

GULP

WHERE
DO YOU
LIVE NOW,
YAHIKO?

I'M GLAD TO
HEAR THAT
YOU'RE STILL
CHASING YOUR
DREAM.



SMMP SMMP

I
DON'T...

DOJO
...?

SO YOU'RE
STUDYING
TO BE A
SWORDS-
MAN NOW?

HE'S
STAYING AT
MY DOJO
FOR THE
TIME BEING.

WELL,
UM...

SMMP



...SOME
STUPID
DREAM I HAD
AS A KID.

I DON'T
REMEMBER...



SHUT
UP!
JUST
KEEP
EATING!!

A
CHILD.

A BOY.

YOU'RE
STILL A
KID.







THAT'S
WHAT
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE
TO ME.



TSUBAME'S
A NICE
GIRL.

TO BE
WORKING
AT SUCH
A YOUNG
AGE...



HER
FAMILY
WAS
WEALTHY,
NOT LIKE
MINE.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY SHE
HAS TO
WORK.



ONLY THE
MERCHANTS
MADE OUT
WELL.

THE LIFESTYLES
OF SAMURAI
FAMILIES
CHANGED
DRASTICALLY
AFTER THE
RESTORATION.

THAT WAS
THREE
YEARS AGO
THOUGH,
RIGHT?



HOW ARE
YOU GOING
TO PAY FOR
IT?

I'LL BE
GOING TO
AKABEKO.

WHAT
?

STARTING
TOMORROW,
EVERY THIRD
NIGHT I
WON'T NEED
DINNER.



TMP



A YEAR'S
PAY
WORKING
UNDER
KANRYU.

J
N
G
L

I GOT
MONEY.



SHE'S
TRYING TO
WHEELDE
MONEY FROM
A KID.

THEY MAY BE
ILL-GOTTEN
GAINS, BUT
HE WORKED
HARD FOR
THEM.

NOPE.



YOU
HAVE
MONEY
?!
YOU
WEREN'T
BROKE
!!

WAIT A
SECOND?!
I'M THE
BAD GUY?!

YOU
COULD
HAVE AT
LEAST
PAID FOR
FOOD...

GET A
JOB IF YOU
WANNA TALK
TO ME LIKE
THAT!

I PAID
THE BILL AT
AKABEKO
FOR ALL OF
YOU!

STREET
FIGHTING
ISN'T
LUCRATIVE.

THIS
ONE IS A
RUROUNI.

C' MON!!

"I'M GLAD TO
HEAR THAT
YOU'RE STILL
CHASING YOUR
DREAM."

...

STOMP

WORK
!!

WORK,
WORK,
WORK,
WORK!

GRP

THE
NEXT
TEN
DAYS...

...PASSED
WITHOUT
INCIDENT.





IF THIS ONE
DOES THAT,
TAKEDA
KANRYU WILL
QUICKLY MAKE
HIS MOVE.

CHRPCHRP



NO.



THIS ONE
COULD ASK
SANO FOR
ASSISTANCE.

HAVING TO
PROTECT THE
DOJO AND
THE PEOPLE
HERE ALONE
WORRIES ME
AS WELL.

THE
FRONT
GATE'S
FIXED.



GOING
SOMEWHERE,
YOUNG
LADY?

ALTHOUGH
HE SEEMS
TO HAVE HIS
OWN PLANS.

IT IS NOT
PALATABLE,
BUT THIS ONE
COULD ASK
SAITO FOR
HIS HELP...

UH-
HUH.



HIS INTENTIONS
ARE UNCLEAR,
BUT WHAT IS
CLEAR IS THAT
UDO JIN-E IS
AFTER ME.

THEN IF THIS
ONE LEAVES
THIS DOJO...



PRACTICE
AT
ANOTHER
DOJO?

DO
YOU WANT
TO COME
WITH ME,
KENSHIN?



I WON'T.

SHOOP

IM-
MEDIATE
RE-
FUSAL!



WAIT
?
DID
YOU
MAKE
THEM?

I LEFT
SOME RICE
BALLS IN
THE
KITCHEN,
SO EAT
THAT FOR
DINNER.

WHAT?
FINE,
DON'T
EAT
THEM!





I
KNOW.

BE
CAREFUL.

TELL
TAE WE
SAID
HELLO.

THIS ONE
WILL
COME BY
TO PICK
YOU UP
LATER.



TMP

I'M
EATING
DINNER AT
AKABEKO.



THEY
WON'T TRY
ANYTHING
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
TOWN...



LOOK AFTER
THE DOJO
WHILE THIS
ONE IS
AWAY.

SANO.



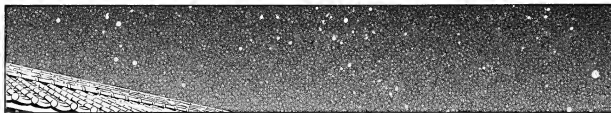
C'MON!

LET'S
GO!!



YOU
GOT
IT!

SURE.



SO WORK'S
NOT GOING
SO GOOD
FOR YOUR
DAD, HUH?

CHITR

I
SEE...

CHITR



SO HE
SUPPORTED
THE FAMILY BY
TAKING CARE
OF HORSES
AND SADDLES.

MY FATHER
WAS A
STABLEMAN
BEFORE THE
RESTORATION.

IT'S HARD
FOR EX-
SAMURAI
TO MAKE A
LIVING NOW.

RICKSHAWS
ARE
CONVENIENT
AND
POPULAR
THESE DAYS.





I'M GONNA
BE THE
STRONGEST
SAMURAI IN
JAPAN!!

TOKYO-FU
SHIZOKU
MYOJIN
YAHIKO!

FATHER
SAID THERE
ARE NO
MORE
SAMURAI.

GOOD
LUCK!

THEN I'LL BE
THE STRONGEST
SWORDSMAN
IN JAPAN!!!

OF
COURSE.

YOU
WOULDN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
SAID ON
TOP OF
THAT
TREE.

...WHAT I
SAID WHEN I
WAS STILL A
SNOT-NOSED
KID!

I DON'T
REMEMBER...

BLUSH









MY WOUNDS
HAVE
FINALLY
HEALED
ENOUGH
FOR ME TO
STEP OUT IN
PUBLIC.



IT'S
BEEN
A
WHILE.



WE'VE
KNOWN
WHAT
YOU'VE BEEN
UP TO FOR
THE PAST
WEEK.

I HIRED
AN
EX-NINJA.

HOW'D
YOU
FIND OUT
ABOUT
THIS
PLACE...?!

A
MERCHANT
SHOWS
UP WHEN
THERE'S A
DEAL TO BE
MADE.

TAKEDA
KANRYU
IS A
MERCHANT.

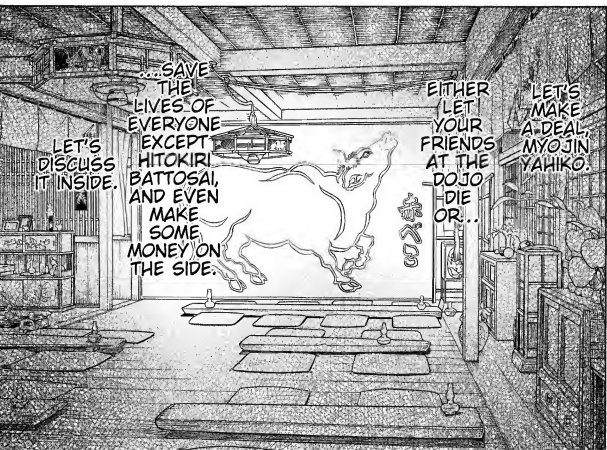


IF I WANTED
TO KILL YOU,
I'D HAVE
ONE OF MY
MEN DO IT.



DAMN
IT!

COMING
AFTER
ME
WHEN
I'M
ALONE!



LET'S
DISCUSS
IT INSIDE.

...SAVE
THE
LIVES OF
EVERYONE
EXCEPT
HITOKIRI
BATTOSAI,
AND EVEN
MAKE
SOME
MONEY ON
THE SIDE.

EITHER
LET
YOUR
FRIENDS
AT THE
DOJO
DIE
OR...

LET'S
MAKE
A DEAL,
MYOJIN
YAHIKO.

FREE TALK 2

On the other hand, there are those who have experienced the world of *Rurouni Kenshin* through the film first. There were more of those people than I expected. Because there were so many of you, the success of the film was significant. The world of *Rurouni Kenshin* has spread because of it.

There are many works I fell in love with as a child and still like as an adult. Works that have continued in sequels, works that have continued as spinoffs, works that have been remade or refined, works that have continued in different mediums, and works that have concluded and remained permanently romanticized in our memories.

Continuance and completion: it's difficult to say which is better. Although *Rurouni Kenshin* concluded once ten-plus years ago, there are many requests for its continuation both from the creator and the audience. Then why not continue expanding its world for a little while longer? That's how I feel at the moment. Of course, I'll follow the definition of parallelism I wrote about in volume 1. I intend to work hard to not let down those who "experienced the world of *Rurouni Kenshin* through the film." (Although I haven't decided whether I'll write *Kenshin* as a manga again at this point...)

Thanks to the favorable reception of the film adaptation of *Rurouni Kenshin*, a sequel is going to be made. Parts 2 and 3, actually. It will revolve around the Kyoto arc. How will the very manga-esque parts be adapted? I'll be relying even more on the director and the film crew this time around. (Because I'm a manga artist, I intend to put more effort into manga). I am looking forward to the next celebration more from the readers' perspective.



Act 6: The Light
of Meiji

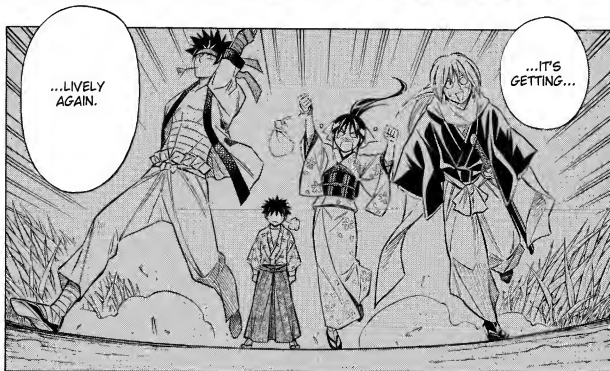


MM...
SUFFICE
TO
SAY...

WHAT'S THE
ART OF THE
SWORD LIKE
IN THE MEIJI
ERA?

HOW WAS
MAEKAWA
DOJO?

...IT
WAS MORE
CROWDED AND
LIVELY THAN
THIS ONE
EXPECTED.





THAT'S
A
GREAT
IDEA.

HE
MIGHT BE
INTERESTED.
HE IS THE
CHILD OF A
SAMURAI,
AFTER
ALL.



YAHIKO!

I WONDER
IF HE'D
BECOME A
STUDENT?



YEAH.

BO OF



!



TRULY
THE
"LIGHT OF
MEIJI."



IT'S UN-
BELIEVABLY
BRIGHT.



IS
IT YOUR
FIRST
TIME
SEEING
THEM?

GAS-
LIGHTS
...!



FROM
LANTERNS
TO
GASLIGHT...

A LOT OF
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED IN
THIS NEW
ERA...



I THINK THE ART
OF THE SWORD IS
GOING TO SHIFT
FROM POLISHING
TECHNIQUE TO
SEEKING "THE
WAY."

THIS MAY
SOUND LIKE
NONSENSE,
BUT HEAR ME
OUT, KENSHIN.



WITH
THE TIMES
CHANGING...

...IF I CAN
CONTINUE
TO KEEP
IT ALIVE...

KAMIYA
KASSHIN-
RYU, WHICH
MY FATHER
DEVELOPED...

...IS A
STYLE THAT
FOCUSSES ON
PRESERVING
LIFE.



NO.



BUT A
BAMBOO
SWORD
USED
IN A
DOJO...

...AND
A REAL
SWORD
USED IN
BATTLE
ARE
CRUCIALLY
DIFFER-
ENT.

THE
SHAPES
MAY HAVE
CHANGED,
BUT BOTH
LANTERNS
AND
GASLIGHTS
PROVIDE
ILLUMINA-
TION.



FOR
ME...?

I
THOUGHT
YOU'D...



THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE
A FINE
IDEA.

FOR YOU,
KAORU-
DONO.



000

TO SAY NOTHING
OF THE FACT
THAT MY HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU IS A STYLE
THAT TAKES
LIVES WITH
CERTAINTY.

AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY...

...SIMPLY
CHANGING MY
NAME WILL NOT
CHANGE WHAT
THIS ONE HAS
DONE IN THE
PAST.

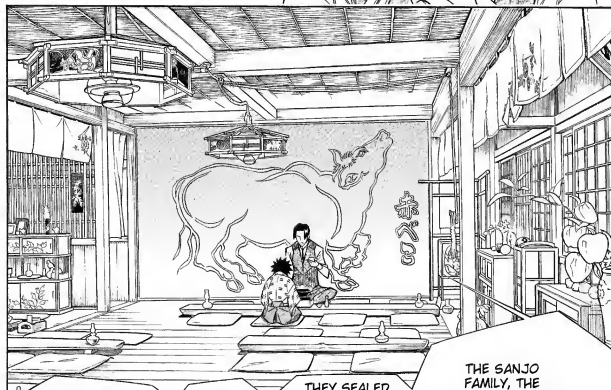
THE
SWORD
IS A
WEAPON.

THE ART
OF THE
SWORD IS
THE ART OF
KILLING.

THAT
IS THE
UNDENIABLE
TRUTH.



Act 6: The Light of Meiji



AND WHAT'S LEFT
OF HIS DEBT WILL
FALL ON THE
SANJO FAMILY.

HIS
FRIEND WILL
DEFINITELY LOSE
EVERYTHING AT
THE END OF THE
MONTH.

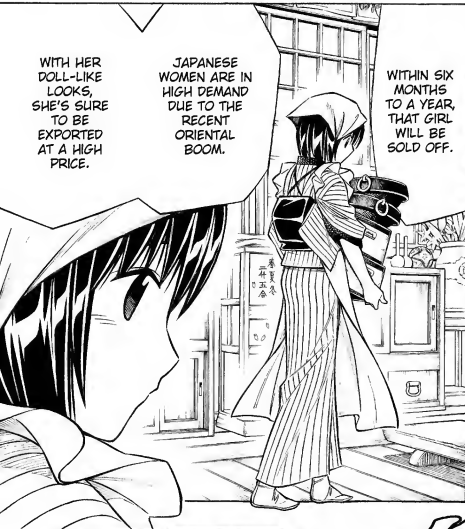
THEY SEALED
THEIR OWN FATE
WHEN THE HEAD
OF THE FAMILY AND
HIS FRIEND BECAME
GUARANTORS FOR
EACH OTHER'S
LOANS.

THE SANJO
FAMILY, THE
FAMILY OF YOUR
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND, WILL GO
BANKRUPT.

WITH HER
DOLL-LIKE
LOOKS,
SHE'S SURE
TO BE
EXPORTED
AT A HIGH
PRICE.

JAPANESE
WOMEN ARE IN
HIGH DEMAND
DUE TO THE
RECENT
ORIENTAL
BOOM.

WITHIN SIX
MONTHS
TO A YEAR,
THAT GIRL
WILL BE
SOLD OFF.



...I'D
LIKE TO
PRO-
POSE...

SO...

...A BIG
OPPOR-
TUNITY
FOR YOU.



GETTING
ANGRY AT
ME WON'T
CHANGE THE
SITUATION.



YOU...

I'M
SIMPLY
STATING
THE
FACTS.

PLEASE
REMAIN
CALM.



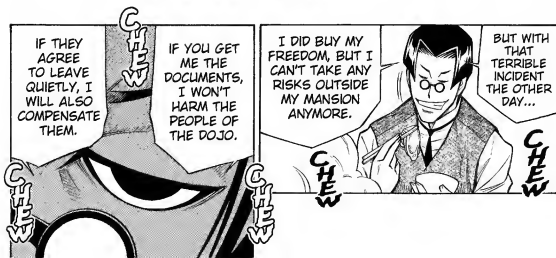
I WILL
PURCHASE
KAMIYA DOJO'S
BUSINESS
DOCUMENTS...

...AT THREE
TIMES THE
PRICE OF
THE SANJO
FAMILY'S
DEBT.



AND I HAVE
TO HAVE
THE DOJO
PROPERTY
FOR IT TO GO
THROUGH.

I'M IN
THE MIDDLE OF
NEGOTIATING A
VERY LUCRATIVE
DEAL WITH
SOMEBODY.

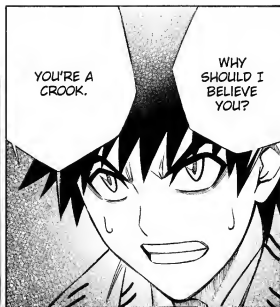


IF THEY
AGREE
TO LEAVE
QUIETLY, I
WILL ALSO
COMPENSATE
THEM.

IF YOU GET
ME THE
DOCUMENTS,
I WON'T
HARM THE
PEOPLE OF
THE DOJO.

I DID BUY MY
FREEDOM, BUT I
CAN'T TAKE ANY
RISKS OUTSIDE
MY MANSION
ANYMORE.

BUT WITH
THAT
TERRIBLE
INCIDENT
THE OTHER
DAY...





DO NOT REVEAL
THIS TO THAT
TROUBLESOME
HITOKIRI.

DO WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO DO.

HOW-
EVER!



I WILL
SEE YOU
THEN.

YOU
HAVE
THREE
DAYS!



EVERY-
THING'S
FINE.

NO...



ARE YOU
OKAY ?
IS ANY-
THING
WRONG ?





SEE
YOU....

...YAHIKO!



I
BETTER
GET
GOING.

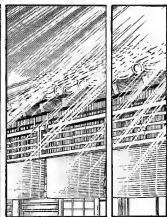
CAN I
GET THE
CHECK
FOR MY
SHARE?

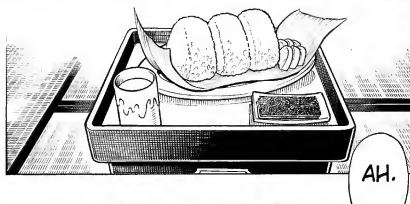
SURE.

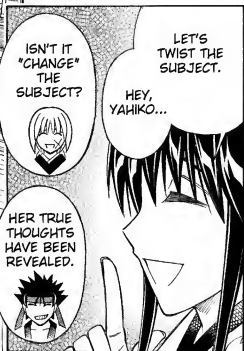
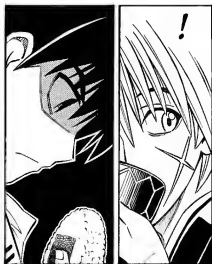


BREAKFAST
IS READY!

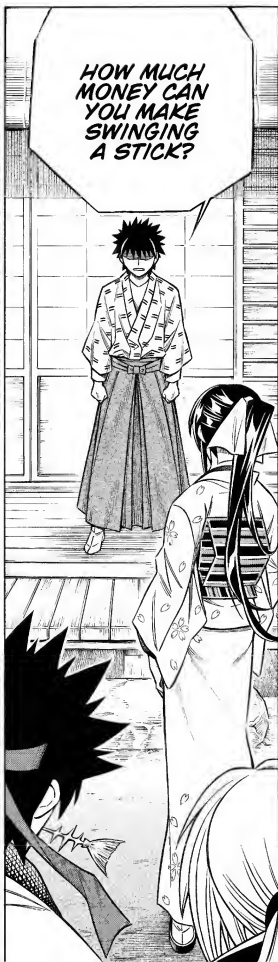
CHRP
CHRP
CHRP

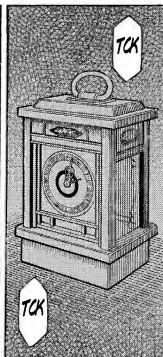
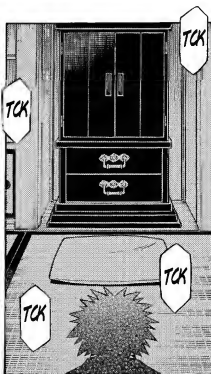
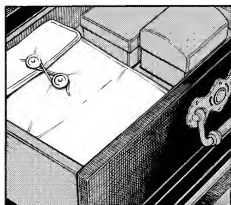
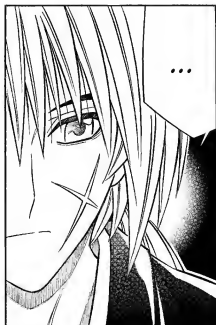


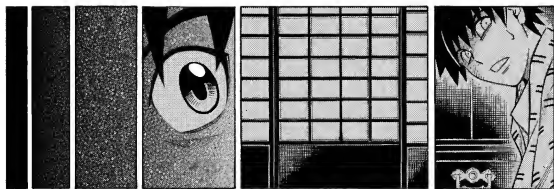


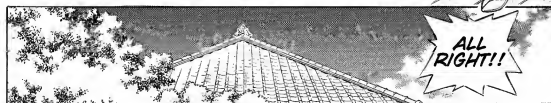
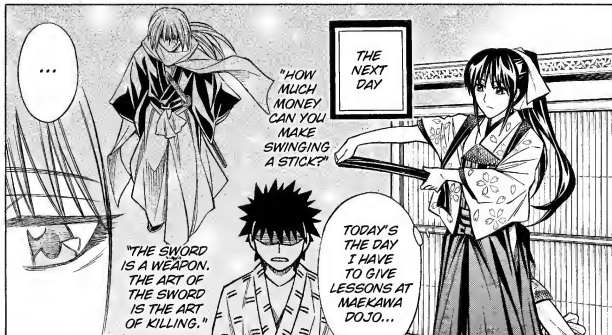


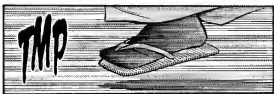














KANRYU!

YOU
GOT
SOME
NERVE.



YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
ATTACK AN
UNARMED MAN,
ARE YOU?

WHOA.

I SAY
NO TO
VIOLENCE.



WHAT IS
IT YOU
WANT?

...

...MY
LEGENDARY
HITOKIRI.

WE'RE
IN THE
MEIJI
ERA
NOW...



HONESTLY,
I'M AFRAID
OF YOU. SO
PLEASE KEEP
YOUR
DISTANCE.

I HAVE NO
BUSINESS
WITH YOU.

WELL
THEN!



OUR DEAL
WILL BE
OFFICIAL.

ONE, TWO, NOW.
THREE,
THEN GO!
AND THE
EXCHANGE
WILL BE
COMPLETE.

SWAY

"SEE YOU,
YAHIKO."

TWO!

"DO YOU WANT
TO STUDY THE
SWORD?"

THREE
!

ONE!





YOU DON'T WANT
TO GET YOUR
HANDS DIRTY
EVEN IF IT MEANS
ABANDONING A
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND!

YOU WISH
TO REMAIN
A NOBLE
SAMURAI!

IS
THAT
IT?!

I
SEE...

SO
YOU'RE
TURNING
YOUR
BACK
ON
THAT
GIRL.



I'M NOT TURNING
MY BACK ON HER!
I'LL WORK OFF
WHATEVER SHE
OWES!

SHUT
UP!!

...YOU'RE
NOT
TAKING
THIS!!

I'LL GET IT
NO MATTER
WHAT I
HAVE TO
DO!

ARE
YOU
STUPID?
A CHILD
CANNOT...

I'LL
STEAL
IF I
HAVE
TO!

SO...

I'LL
TAKE
YOU
ON!!!

IF YOU
WANT
IT, COME
AND GET
IT!!

...BRAT!

YOU
LITTLE...



WE WILL
TALK
LATER.

YAHIKO.

THCH

!

TUP





...TAKEDA
KANRYU.

YOU
LOST
TO A
CHILD...

...!!



...SAID...

...I...

LIKE...



ISN'T
THIS
WHAT
YOU
BROUGHT
US HERE
FOR?!

YOU'RE
JUST
WASTING
YOUR
TIME!

BOOM

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT
...?!

THUD

IT'LL BE
EASY TO
COVER UP
ANYTHING
WE DO.

WE'RE
FAR
FROM
TOWN.

FWP



ALTHOUGH HE
WAS ALREADY
PRETTY BEAT
UP.

HE TRIED
SEEKING
REFUGE
HERE, SO I
GRABBED
HIM.

THIS IS
MAEKAWA
DOJO'S
DOGI...



SOMEBODY
CAME AND...



YOU
ARE THE
SACRIFICE,
LITTLE
GIRL.

HEH
HEH.

...WHO
ASKED
FOR
THE
MAN...

...WITH
THE
CROSS-
SHAPED
SCAR AT
KAMIYA
DOJO...



Character/Production Anecdotes Part 56

-People of Rurouni

Kenshin: Restoration-

Himura Kenshin

I tried expressing more of his inner feelings this time. I'll explain in greater detail later. A man who brought about a peaceful new era can't find his place because of the acts he committed in the past. I tried expressing that with the theme "pool of blood." I like the image of his hands soaked in blood.

Because he's a bit more reserved and excitable compared to the original Kenshin, he seems slightly immature. To a forty-something-year-old like myself, he seems like he's in his late twenties. Perhaps he isn't too hero-like.

The way Hiten Mitsuryugi-ryu is written and why its techniques are different is purely out of fun. The editorial office received a phone call pointing out that Tensho Ryusen was read using the Chinese pronunciation. I'm sorry for the confusion.

The most obvious change in his appearance was his white scarf. "Scarf = hero" is imprinted in my mind.

Besides the expressions of his eyes and speech, I changed Kenshin's cross-shaped scar→white (crimson), Battosai's cross-shaped scar→black (deep crimson). Many of the readers didn't notice until the end...

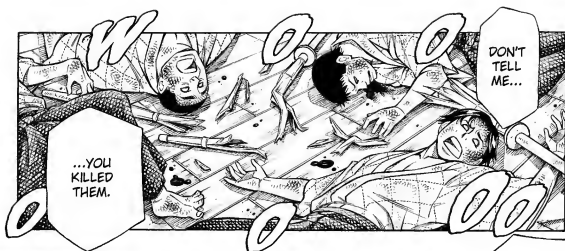
I struggled most with his hairstyle. With the way I draw now, I couldn't quite recreate his original bushy hair. I finally regained that touch toward the end.

Kamiya Kaoru

With Kenshin a bit more immature, Kaoru ended up being slightly more mature. I didn't realize it at the time, but I mixed in some "older sister" qualities in her.

One thing I paid close attention to was removing violent expressions when she calls people out. The aversion for a violent heroine has been strong the past few years. I kept it to her raising her arms and chasing people around this time.

Continued on page 110.



...YOU
KILLED
THEM.

DON'T
TELL
ME...



MY
SWORD IS TOO
GOOD TO USE
AGAINST FOOLS
PLAYING AROUND
WITH BAMBOO
STICKS.

DON'T
BE
CRAZY.



ALL I
NEEDED
WAS...

...MY
HAND.



YOU
HAVE
GOOD
FORM.

THIS
IS A
SUR-
PRISE.

HMM.



MIGI-
SAKATE
GYAKUDO!
(RIGHT
REVERSE-GRIP
LEFT-SIDE
STRIKE)

GA

KAMIYA
KASSHIN-
RYU

K

HA-
NAGARE!!

(BLADE FLOW)

Y
A
A
A
A
!!

NO...

MY HAND
WILL BE
ENOUGH.

YET
IT'S
STILL A
STICK.

...MY
HAND!!

WON'T
EVEN
NEED...

WHAT
...

...IS...

...
THIS?

?!?

...AND
INCLUDE IT
AS ONE
OF THEIR
TECHNIQUES.

SOME
SCHOOLS
CALL IT
**SHIN NO
IPPO**, OR
THE ART OF
FEAR...

HUFF

I CAN'T...
MOVE...

HUFF

THUD

BLOOD-
THIRST
SHARPENED
TO ITS
LITMOST
LIMIT GRATES
THE BONES,
SHRINKS THE
MUSCLES...

...FREEZES
THE BLOOD,
AND
DEPRIVES
THE BODY OF
FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT.

IT'S LIKE
"A FROG
STARED
AT..."

...BY A
SNAKE."

ANYWAY.
PUT
SIMPLY.

...YOU
PEOPLE
COULD
NEVER
REACH.

IT'S
A REALM
AND A
TRUTH...



THE ART
OF THE
SWORD
IS THE
ART OF
KILLING.

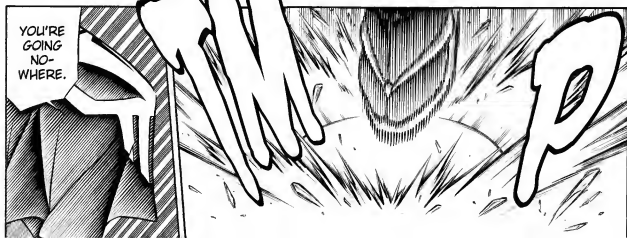
THE
SWORD
IS A
WEAPON.

**Act 7:
Stormy
Winds**

HEH
HEH.

和伸
宏







STOP,
DAMN IT!

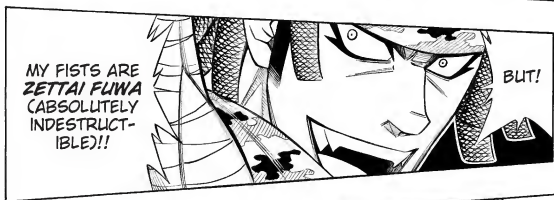
STOP
JUMPIN'
AROUND!

HA
HA!!





I'VE HEARD ABOUT
YOU, BRAWLER!
THAT YOUR FISTS
ARE **ICHIGEKI
HIKAI** (ONE
STRIKE CERTAIN
DESTRUCTION)!!



...CONTRA-
DICTION
HERE.

THERE'S
A...

I AM
BANJIN!!

BANJIN

SO
LET'S FIND
OUT...

SP

LAT

MUTEKI
TEKKO
INUI
BANJIN!!!

(INDESTRUCTIBLE IRON ARMOR
INUI BANJIN)

...WHICH
IS
STRONGER
!!



...YOU
...

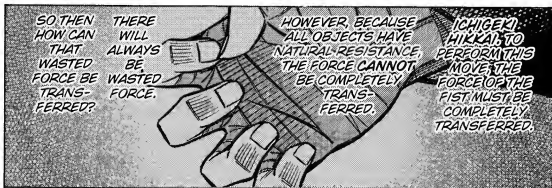
ARE
...

...READY
?!



IF I SMASH
YOUR FISTS,
NO HARD
FEELINGS!!

I'LL
TAKE
YOU
ON!!

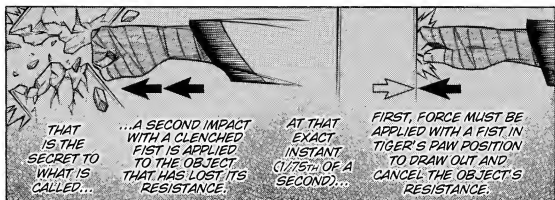


SO THEN
HOW CAN
THAT
WASTED
FORCE BE
TRANS-
FERRED?

THERE
WILL
ALWAYS
BE
WASTED
FORCE.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE
ALL OBJECTS HAVE
NATURAL RESISTANCE,
THE FORCE CANNOT
BE COMPLETELY
TRANS-
FERRED.

ICHIGEKI
HIKKAU TO
PERFORM THIS
MOVE, THE
FORCE OF THE
FIST MUST BE
COMPLETELY
TRANSFERRED.



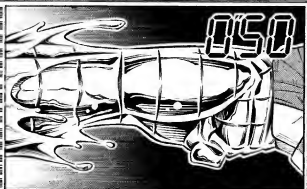
THAT
IS THE
SECRET TO
WHAT IS
CALLED...

...A SECOND IMPACT
WITH A CLENCHED
FIST IS APPLIED
TO THE OBJECT
THAT HAS LOST ITS
RESISTANCE.

AT THAT
EXACT
INSTANT
(1/75TH OF A
SECOND)...

FIRST, FORCE MUST BE
APPLIED WITH A FIST IN
TIGER'S PAW POSITION
TO DRAW OUT AND
CANCEL THE OBJECT'S
RESISTANCE.







A close-up of a character with spiky black hair and a determined expression. His right hand is raised, with fingers spread, and a bright, starburst-like light emanates from the palm. The background is dark with some motion lines.

HIS SYRUP-LIKE
METAL IS THROWING
OFF THE TIMING
OF MY FORCE
TRANSFER.

I CAN'T
PULL OFF
FUTAE....!!

A character with long hair, wearing a patterned kimono and a headband, stands in a village setting. He is surrounded by trees and traditional Japanese buildings. He has a determined expression and is holding a small object in his right hand. The scene is filled with motion lines and a sense of action.

FISTS,
BLADES,
BULLETS!
NOTHING...

...CAN
DESTROY
THIS SOFT
METAL!!

HA HA!!

WELL?!
WHADDAYA
THINK OF THIS
MUTEKI TEKKO
INDESTRUCTIBLE
ARMOR? IT'S
MADE FROM
MERCURY!!

A close-up of a hand with a mechanical or armored appearance. The hand is clenched into a fist, and there are various mechanical details and joints visible. The background is dark with some motion lines.

BUT IT'S
PERFECT
FOR
SMASHIN'
THINGS!!

A close-up of a hand with a mechanical or armored appearance, similar to the one in the previous panel. The hand is clenched into a fist, and there are various mechanical details and joints visible. The background is dark with some motion lines.

ALTHOUGH
IT SUCKS
THAT I
CAN'T USE
MY HANDS
WHEN IT
HARDENS!!

SPLCH





*NOTE: KARASU TENGU = CROW DEMON





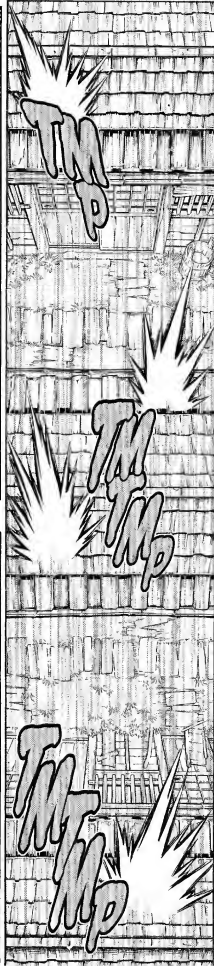
TAKING AN
OVERHEAD
ROUTE
THAT'S THE
SHORTEST
DISTANCE
TO THE
DESTINATION...

...AND
PREVENTING
ANY
POSSIBLE
HARM TO
THE TOWN
FOLKS.



NOT
EVEN I CAN
CATCH UP
TO HIM...

BUT BOY
HE'S FAST!



INTRUDER
DETECTED!!

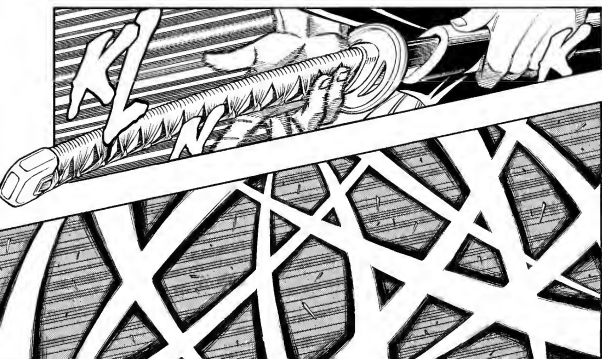
H
W
E
E
T

GET
THEM!

HE'S THE
PERFECT
SUBJECT
FOR ME TO
SHOW OFF
MY SKILLS
ON!!

I SEE WHY
HE'S KNOWN
AS THE
BAKUMATSU'S
LEGENDARY
HITOKIRI!







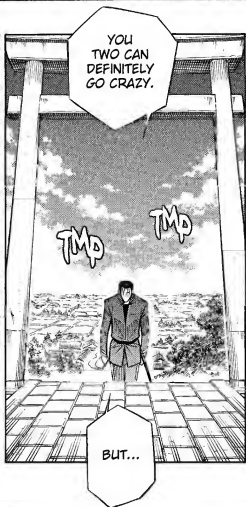


WITH
THIS
MUCH
SPACE...

A
SHRINE,
HUH?



...IF YOU GET
CAUGHT, SO
WILL YOUR
EMPLOYER.



YOU
TWO CAN
DEFINITELY
GO CRAZY.

TMP TMP

BUT...

WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
HIM...?

HE'S
GOT THAT
OLD LOOK
AGAIN...

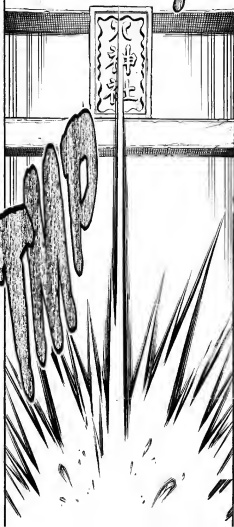


SAITO.



HIS TRUE
IDENTITY
IS THE
EX-
SHINSEN-
GUMI
3RD UNIT
CAPTAIN
SAITO
HAJIME.

LIEU-
TENANT
FUJITA
GORO,
METRO-
POLITAN
POLICE
DEPART-
MENT.



I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU.





HMM, NOT
BAD FOR AN
EX-ONMITSU
ONIWA
BANSHU.



I'VE
LOOKED INTO
EVERYBODY
KANRYU
GATHERED.

YOU GOT
CLOSE TO HIM
AS A CROOKED
COP TO SNIFF
AROUND, BUT
YOU CAN'T
FOOL ME.



THE GROUP WAS
DISBANDED AFTER
THE RESTORATION.
SOME LEFT THE
SHOGUNATE, SOME
BECAME GOVERNMENT
OFFICERS, BUT A FEW,
WITH THEIR UNIQUE
SKILL-SET, COMMITTED
THEMSELVES TO
A LIFE OF CRIME...

A GROUP
OF SPECIAL
COVERT
AGENTS WHO
PROTECTED
EDO CASTLE
AND THE
TOKUGAWA
FAMILY DURING
THE TOKUGAWA
SHOGUNATE.

ONMITSU
ONIWA
BANSHU.



HEH

SO YOU
CAN'T
FOOL ME
EITHER.



FLK

I USED TO
CARRY OUT SOME
CLANDESTINE
MISSIONS WHILE
I WAS IN THE
SHINSENGUMI
TOO.



...I SHALL
TAKE YOU
OUT WITH MY
ABILITY.

SHINSEN-
GLIMI
3RD UNIT
CAPTAIN.
ALTHOUGH
YOU'RE
A NOTCH
BELOW THE
LEGENDARY
HITOKIRI...



I'M NOW
KNOWN AS
"GEIN." THE
ARTIST OF
DEATH!!



EX-ONMITSU
ONIWA
BANSHU
"KUROKO"!



KILL!





GHA!

POWER,
POWER,
POWER,
POWER,
POWER,
POWER!!

FW
AK

MONEY,
MONEY,
MONEY,
MONEY,
MONEY,
MONEY!!

WH
ACK
FW
AK

FW
AK

WH
ACK



...A STACK
OF BILLS!

OF
MONEY!!

YOU DIDN'T
KNOW, DID
YOU?!

THE
WEIGHT
OF...

THEY SWEAT,
DEVOTE THEIR
ENERGY, THEIR
TIME, AND RISK
THEIR LIVES
OVER IT!!

EVERYBODY
CRIES,
LAUGHS,
REJOICES,
AND ANGERS
OVER IT!!





FULL...
WELL THEN.



IN ANY CASE...

MONEY
IS THE
ULTIMATE!



THE
ULTIMATE
WEAPON!!

...THE
GREAT
MERCHANT
TAKEDA
KANRYU!

AND
THE
WINNER
IS...





DON'T YOU SEE? A CHILD CANNOT BEAT AN ADULT, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT A WEAPON...

DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO QUIT?



YOU'RE NOT...

...LEAVING WITH THAT.



...THEN **THIS** IS MINE.

IF **THAT'S** YOUR WEAPON...



...EVEN!!

NOW IT'S...

DO ON

I really like the scene of Kaoru talking to Kenshin on the bridge, both staging and design-wise. The most notable change in her appearance is the presence or absence of a part in her bangs. When I was still beginning as a manga artist, I worried too much about drawing distinctive hairstyles, hardly paying attention to the flow of the hair. Because of that, I struggled with the sheen and shading. So this time around, I narrowed it down to a ponytail.

As far as her wardrobe, I had to emphasize that she was a female samurai, so she wore a kimono + hakama.

Myojin Yahiko

Yahiko saw the most growth out of all the characters in *Restoration*. He was originally born out of my concerns over having a thirty-something-year-old main character in a shonen manga. I included him to add a child's perspective. But in reality, the main demographic of *Jump* readers were middle school and high school kids, slightly older than Yahiko. In addition, the age of *my* readers was slightly higher than that. So my intentions may have been misguided. This time around, I had him as a character who evolves through the story.

Yahiko rejecting Kanryu's deal is his climactic scene. The fight afterwards is just a bonus.

The biggest changes in his appearance are to his hair and eyes. His hairstyle was quite similar to Sanosuke's in the original, so I made it a little shorter. I wanted his growth to be apparent with his eyes, so I drew his pupils a bit smaller and gave him a more menacing look in the first half.

Sagara Sanosuke

There was a bold idea of removing Sanosuke from the story when the film adaptation was being discussed, since he wasn't involved in the main plot. However, he ranks in the top 3 most popular *Rurouni Kenshin* characters. It would've been a waste not to take advantage of the way he livens up the story and imagery. He played the exact same role in *Restoration*. The rowdiness at Kamiya Dojo dramatically increases with him around.

Continued on page 142.

**Act 8: Eve of
Convergence**



"YOU'RE
STILL
CHASING
YOUR
DREAM."









I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
HOW TO
HOLD A
BAMBOO
SWORD
PROPERLY.



I
HAVEN'T
GAINED A
THING.



I
HAVEN'T
DONE A
THING
ABOUT
IT.



IF I
LOSE,
KAORU
WILL
LOSE
THE
DOJO.

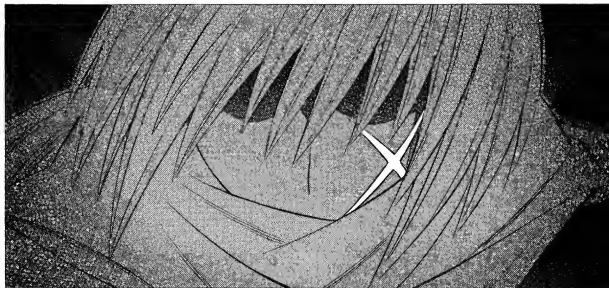


TSUBAME
WILL LOSE
HER LIFE.

DAMN
IT!
YOU
TOUGH
LITTLE
BASTARD!

"YAHIKO,
DO YOU
WANT TO
STUDY THE
SWORD?"





**BOW DOWN
BEFORE
MONEY!!**



**GIVE
UP AL-
READY!**

**BOW
DOWN
BEFORE
ME!**



**I'M
GONNA
BEAT
YOU!**

**I'M
GONNA
BEAT
YOU!**



MY
MONEY!!



...A
STRONG
SWORDS-
MAN!!

I'M
GONNA
BE...

I'M
GONNA
BE...

I'M
GONNA
BE...

I'M
GONNA
BE...

Tokyo Samurai
Myojin
Yahiko



Evil Merchant
Takeda
Kanryu



Street Fighter
Sagara
Sanosuke



Muteki Tekko
Inui
Banjin



Ex-Shinsengumi 3rd
Unit Captain
Saito
Hajime



Ex-Oniwabanshu
Assassin
Kuroko
Gein



Act 8: Eve of Convergence





HYA!

**HOW
D'YA
LIKE
THAT
?!!**

YAP!!



FWP

TCH...



YOU
GOT NO
CHANCE
AGAINST
MY
MUTEKI
TEKKO!!

BUT
IT'S
FUTILE!



HE'S
BATTLE-
TESTED
FOR
SURE!

I'VE HIT HIM
DOZENS OF
TIMES, BUT
HE JUST
WON'T GO
DOWN.

WH
OO
HS



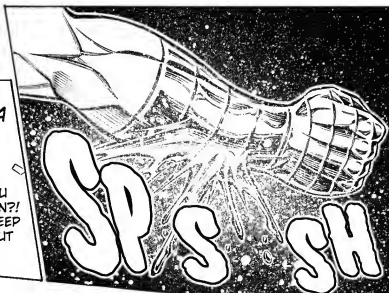
FOUND
IT.





HA HA
HA!

DON'T YOU
EVER LEARN?!
YOU CAN KEEP
TRYING, BUT
YOU...



LEFT
!!



**TAKE
THIS!!**

**YOU
READY
?!**





WASN'T
QUITE
ICHIGEKI
HIKKAI
(ONE
STRIKE
CERTAIN
DESTRUC-
TION)...
!

...BUT
THERE
AIN'T
NO ZETTAI
FUWA
(ABSOLUTE
INDESTRUCT-
IBILITY)
EITHER.

THERE'S A
CONTRADICTION
HERE.



ARGH
!!

HE STUFFED
THE IMPACT
OF FUTAE NO
KIWAMI INSIDE
THE ARMOR AND
FORCED IT TO
CRACK!





OH
CRAP...!

SO
LET'S
FIND
OUT...
...WHAT
THE
TRUTH
IS!!











**THAT'S
MY
MONEY!
GIVE IT
BACK!!**

**BREACH
OF CON-
TRACT!**



**I DON'T
WANT YOUR
DIRTY
MONEY!**



**WHAT
?!**

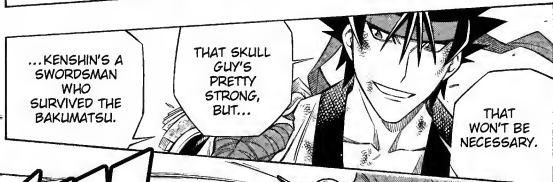
**AS
FIGHT
MONEY.**

**ALTHOUGH,
I GOT NO
QUALMS
TAKING IT.**

**ATTA
BOY.**









SAIKOSHI
(FINE STEEL
THREAD)

ZZM

ZZM
ZZM

BAKUSATSU
(DEATH BY
BINDING)

GKR RRR
KARANLI!!!
(EMPTY STITCH)

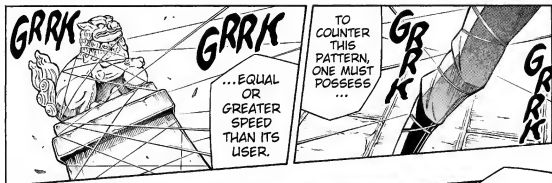
TNR

RK

RATHER IT
USES SPEED
TO RESTRAIN
THEIR
MOVEMENTS.

...ABOUT
USING SPEED
TO DIRECTLY
KILL MY
OPPONENTS.

MY PATTERN
FOR VICTORY
IS NOT...



TO COUNTER
THIS
PATTERN,
ONE MUST
POSSESS
...

YOU ARE NOT
CAPABLE OF
TESTING MY
SKILLS.

SAITO
HAJIME.



EDO
CASTLE WAS
SURRENDERED
WITH NO
BLOODSHED
DURING THE
RESTORATION. I
COULD NOT FIGHT
IN TOKYO
EITHER.

HOWEVER,
THIS
SKILL, THIS
POWER...

I WILL NOT
LET IT ROT IN
THIS TIME OF
PEACE.

SHAAK

IT WASN'T AS IF
YOU WERE THE
HEAD OF THE
ONIWABANSHU.
YOU COULD
HAVE SIMPLY
LEFT...

...IF YOU
WANTED TO
FIGHT.

THE BOSHIN
WAR CONTINUED
FOR A YEAR
IN UENO, AIZU,
AND HAKODATE
EVEN AFTER
THE BLOODLESS
SURRENDER OF
THE CASTLE.

!

HEH.

HEH HEH.

A DOG
SHOULD
DIE
LIKE A
DOG...

YOU
KNOW TOO
WELL HOW
MISERABLE
IT IS BEING A
LOSER, DON'T
YOU?

THE SHINSENGUMI
WAS ONCE
KNOWN AS THE
WOLVES OF
MIBU, BUT NOW
THEY ARE JUST
DOGS OF THE
AUTHORITIES.

DON'T BE
FOOLISH.

...WITH
A CHAIN
AROUND
ITS
NECK!!

I'M NOT DUMB
ENOUGH TO
FIGHT A LOSING
BATTLE.

HEH

YOU
FOOL.

LOSERS ARE
NOT LOSERS
BECAUSE
THEY'VE LOST.

I'LL TELL
YOU ONE
THING.

THEY'RE
CALLED
LOSERS
BY THOSE
WHO'VE
NEVER
FOUGHT.

IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY
FOUGHT
AND
LOST.

LISTEN!

IS
HE TRYING
TO FORCE
HIS WAY
OUT OF MY
KARANUI...?!

?!
NK



IF
A MAN
DOESN'T
FIGHT...
...HE
CAN'T
EVEN
BE A
LOSER.



NO! HIS POSITION,
HIS STANCE! HE'S
READYING HIMSELF
TO USE HIS ULTIMATE
TECHNIQUE...



GD
AD
T
O
T
S
U
!!

(FANG STRIKE)



SO THIS IS
THE SKILL OF
SHINSENGUMI
3RD UNIT
CAPTAIN SAITO
HAJIME.

HEH
HEH...



IF IT
WASN'T FOR
MY REACTION
SPEED, I
WOULD'VE
BEEN DEAD...

THAT
GATOTSU
WAS
BRILLIANT.

I TOOK
YOU TOO
LIGHTLY.



GATOTSU
IS THE
SHINSEN-
GUMI'S
UNIQUE
HIRATSUKI
TECHNIQUE
HEIGHTENED
TO ITS LIMIT.

HEH. MY
RESEARCH
WAS
PERFECT.

A STRIKE
UNLEASHED
USING ALL
OF ONE'S
STRENGTH
WITH ONLY
THE LEFT
ARM...



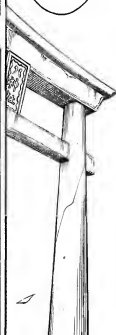
HAVEN'T
YOU
DONE
YOUR
HOME-
WORK?

!



GATOTSU
?

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



*SWORD=SWIFT DEATH TO EVIL.

I NEEDED
TO
APPREHEND
YOU AS A
WITNESS.

GASP!

MY
AKUSOKUZAN
WILL HAVE
TO WAIT.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
ONLY
THE LEFT
ARM.

LEFT...

RIGHT.

NOOOOOO!!

NO...

YOU'RE
LUCKY...

...I'M A
DOG OF THE
AUTHORITIES
AND NOT THE
WOLF OF
MIBU.



I struggled most with how in depth to write about the Sekiho Army. It was unrelated to the story, but it was an important part of Sanosuke's character. In the end, I only touched on it due to length restrictions. I'm a little disappointed about that.

The most notable change in his appearance was his red knuckle gloves. I wanted to emphasize him as a barehanded fighter, and I thought it would be cooler if he removed them before firing Futae no Kiwami. I also added a touch of *Kamen Rider 2*.

Saito Hajime

He seems like Kenshin's nemesis, but in fact he's his #1 supporter. I kept his role as Kenshin's comrade connected by a strange friendship. I think condensing the story strengthened their bond even more.

I came up with the line "If a man doesn't fight, he can't even be a loser" while I was walking my dog. I figured it was fitting for Saito. I'm really happy I got to include it in this version.

The biggest change in his appearance was his uniform. I had very little reference material while working on the original version. I compared his original uniform to the reference material I had this time around to make it more historically accurate. The internet is really helpful. It's so helpful I can't put out anything that's halfhearted.

Udo Jin-e

He's the biggest enemy early in the original series and the last boss in *Restoration* and the film. I initially depicted him as being crazy and attacking Kenshin out of sheer madness, but then gave him a motive. As a result, his level of madness diminished compared to the original. That was a slight miscalculation on my part. I left out Shin no Ippo because I felt it was too supernatural, but that too diminished some of the excitement unique to a shonen manga. That was also a miscalculation.

The biggest change in his appearance is his skin tone. I changed it hoping to increase his oddity, but that led to difficulties in keeping the tone of the entire script consistent. It's best not to do anything you're not used to. A lot of things didn't work out in *Restoration* for Jin-e. It drove home that the original version of Jin-e is the perfect and the ultimate.

Continued on page 174.



YOU
OKAY?

WAKE
UP.



TAKE THOSE
THAT CAN
WALK TO THE
STATION FOR
QUESTION-
ING.

START
SENDING
PATIENTS WHO'VE
ALREADY
RECEIVED FIRST
AID TO THE
CLINIC.

MUTTER

MUTTER



ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
IS...

IT'S MY JOB
TO TREAT
ANYBODY
WOUNDED
IN DOJOS IN
THIS AREA.

THANK
YOU, DR.
TAKANI.

THAT
SHOULD
DO IT...

...FOR
NOW.



田無村北ノ外
百石ヶ原ニテ
女ヲ待ツ

...TO SEE
WHETHER
THE
KENKAKU
WHO CALLED
ME HERE...

...CAN SAVE
WHOEVER
WROTE
THAT...

WILL BE WAITING
WITH THE GIRL

HYAKUGOKUGAHARA

NORTH OF
TANASHI VILLAGE



Act 9: Sacrifice

和伸
月宏





HEH
HEH.



...IF YOU
DON'T
STOP HER
BLEEDING
SOON...

HOW-
EVER...

SHE'S
NOT
DEAD.

...IT WILL
BE TOO
LATE.

SHE'S
JUST UN-
CONSCIOUS.



...SWELLED
SO RAPIDLY.

YOUR
PRESENCE...

HEH
HEH...

SO
MENACING...

BUT THANKS TO
IT, I NOW KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE
YOU ARE.





RYUSHOSEN!

(DRAGON RISING FLASH)

GKLLNG

AGH!



DON'T
EVEN
ASK. YOU
KNOW
WHY.



WHY
KAORU-
DONO?!



IS IT
BECAUSE
OF WHAT I
DID TO YOUR
HANDS?



...



OH, SO YOU
REALLY DON'T
KNOW WHY?



EVERYTHING
ABOUT THE
BAKUMATSU
WAS A JOY
FOR ME.



BECOMING
A HITOKIRI,
KILLING SCORES
OF MEN,
NEARLY
BEING
KILLED BY
YOU...



I
HAVEN'T
THE
SLIGHTEST
GRUDGE
AGAINST
YOU.



TO LIVE
OR DIE.

I ENJOYED
THAT
TURBULENT
ERA.

IT WAS
SUCH A
SIMPLE AND
THEREFORE
PURE ERA...

KILL
OR BE
KILLED.

I RESISTED
IT FOR TEN
YEARS.

BUT IT
APPEARS
TIME
CAN'T BE
REVERSED.

BUT TIMES
CHANGED
TO THE
PEACEFUL
MEIJI ERA.



**GIVE
ME THAT
MOMENT,
BATTOSAI!!**



**I
REFUSE
!!**



**ANOTHER
COMPRESSED
MOMENT
BETWEEN
LIFE OR
DEATH!**

**SO NOW
I'LL
HAVE IT
AT LEAST
ONE
MORE
TIME!**



**A BRIEF
MOMENT OF
LIFE AS DENSE
AS IT WAS
BACK THEN!**



HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU



RYUKANSEN!!!
(DRAGON WIND UP FLASH)

TSUMUJI

GAK

GAK

KOGARASHI

ARASHI!!!

(WHIRLING WINTER STORM)

GAK







RYUTSU
SEN!!!
(DRAGON MAILLOT FLASH)



HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU





IT
HASN'T
AFFECTED
HIM...!

IT'S
AS IF I
HAVE
AN-
OTHER
JOINT
IN MY
ARMS!!!



THIS
IS
GREAT
!!



I
THANK
YOU,
BATTOSAI!

YOU'VE
GIVEN ME
ANOTHER
AMUSING
SCAR!!



HIS
MIND HAS
COMPLETELY
OVERTAKEN
HIS BODY!!

UGH!





ALL MY
BODY!

WITH
ALL MY
STRENGTH!

ALL MY
SOUL!

LET'S
FINISH
THIS!

BATTO-
SAI!!

KEE

ENG

FWA

SH



KR EEN

GAT NG

!!

HEH
HEH!

SH HAK



HOW
LAUGHABLE.

JUST



THIS IS YOUR
IDEA OF
FAST?

FASTEST
...?



...



WHO
DO YOU
THINK...

...I
AM?!!

FWD



YOU ARE FAR
FROM YOUR
FASTEST
WITH THAT
UNSHEATHING
TECHNIQUE.

YOU
KNOW
BETTER
THAN
ANYBODY...

...THAT
YOU CAN'T
GENERATE
ENOUGH
SAYABASHIRI*
USING A SWORD
WITH THE BLUNT
SIDE ON THE
OUTER CURVE.

FWO

*SPEED GENERATED THROUGH UNSHEATHING A SWORD

SAKABATO...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

...AS A HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU KENKAKU
IF YOU ARE
UNWILLING TO
TAKE A LIFE.

YOU
CANNOT
UNLEASH
YOUR
FULL
BODY AND
SOUL...

...BUT
NOT ME.

YOU MAY CUT
THROUGH FLESH
AND BONE WITH
YOUR SWORD...

THE
BLOOD OF
A HOSTAGE
WAS NOT
ENOUGH TO
STIR YOU.

...WILL
YOU
SAVE
THIS
GIRL.

NOR...

DON'T
DO
IT...

GRR



THE REGRET
FOR TAKING
LIFE AND THE
REMORSE FOR
THOSE YOU'VE
KILLED.

ALL LEADS TO
HESITATION,
WHICH DULLS
THE SWORD OF
A HITOKIRI.

"KOROSAZU."
REFUSAL
TO KILL.

Woooooooooooo

NOOOO!!

STOP!

WASH AWAY THAT
HESITATION WITH
THE BLOOD OF THIS
SACRIFICE.

MM...



Takeda Kanryu

He is the last boss in both *Restoration* and the film, so I wasn't planning on making any drastic changes. But I was inspired to after seeing Teruyuki Kagawa's fanatical performance in the film.

I figured he should be proud of being a crooked merchant, so I came up with the line "I'm not a crook. I'm an unscrupulous merchant." That line is one of my favorites.

The biggest change in his appearance is the shape of his glasses. I changed them to round glasses to give him a more Meiji era feel, but I think square glasses suited his apathetic ways more. That was a mistake.

Others

Banjin and Gein's roles were so dramatically changed that I used versions of them from *Kenshin Saihitsu*. Tae, Megumi, Chief Uramura, and other minor characters stayed the same from the original version. A friend of mine insisted I keep Tsubame the same so I couldn't change her...



Final Chapter: In the New Era

"...ISN'T GOING
TO FREE YOU
FROM THE POOL
OF BLOOD YOU
CREATED."

"WANDERING
AROUND WITH A
FAKE SMILE..."

"IF YOU KEEP
WIELDING THAT
SAKABATO,
ONE DAY..."

"BE PREPARED
TO STEP BACK
INTO A POOL
OF BLOOD."

"...A GRAVE
PREDICAMENT."

"...YOU'LL
FIND
YOURSELF
IN..."



"THE
SWORD IS A
WEAPON. THE
ART OF THE
SWORD
IS THE
ART OF
KILLING!!"

SEE THAT?!
THAT'S HOW
A SWORD
SHOULD BE
USED!

HA!

THAT'S
THE
TRUTH!

THE UN-
DENIABLE
TRU-

DO YOU
REMEMBER
NOW?!
THIS IS
THE ART
OF THE
SWORD!

HA
HA!

KHAA!!!





I COULDN'T
SEE THE
SECOND
STRIKE...!!

IT WASN'T
JUST ONE
STRIKE...!

GASP...!
HIS CROSS-
SHAPED SCAR
IS ONCE AGAIN
THE COLOR OF
FRESH BLOOD...

THAT IS
THE UN-
DENIABLE
TRUTH...

THE SWORD
IS A WEAPON.
THE ART OF
THE SWORD
IS THE
ART OF
KILLING...

THE
TRUTH
!!

**I'LL
KILL
YOU!!**

I'LL
GIVE YOU
WHAT YOU
WANT.

COME,
UDO
JIN-E.





HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

KEN...
SHIN...

IT SEEMS
THE BLOOD OF
THE SACRIFICE
WAS TOO
EFFECTIVE...

WELL,
WELL...

ZI

NK

YOU'VE
NOT ONLY
RETURNED
TO THE
HITOKIRI
YOU ONCE
WERE...

IT IS
MORE
THAN I
COULD
HAVE
WISHED
FOR!!

...BUT YOU'RE
ALSO PREPARED
TO GIVE ME YOUR
HEART, MIND, AND
STRENGTH AS THE
SUCCESSOR OF
HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU!

COME,
LET US
BATTLE
TO THE
DEATH.

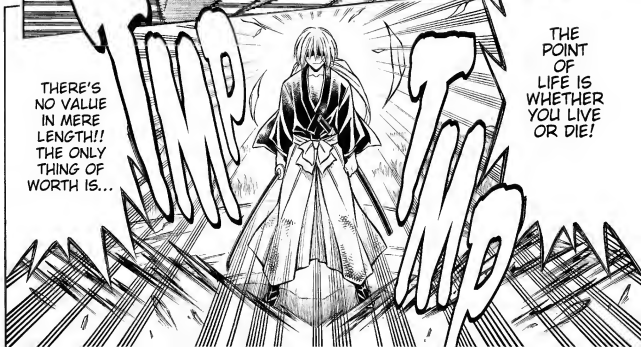


I'LL USE
MY WEIGHT AND
STRENGTH TO
COUNTER HIS
SPEED!!

SAIDAI JOGE
DOZAN
(SIMULTANEOUS
CUTS FROM ABOVE
AND BELOW) USES
THE ARCH OF
BOTH ARMS!

THERE'S
NO VALUE
IN MERE
LENGTH!!
THE ONLY
THING OF
WORTH IS...

THE
POINT
OF
LIFE IS
WHETHER
YOU LIVE
OR DIE!



HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU OGI (ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE)

AND
THAT WAS
ALREADY
DECIDED...

...THE
MOMENT
WHEN
LIFE OR
DEATH IS
DECIDED!!

YOUR
DEATH
BECAME A
CERTAINTY.

...WHEN I
SAID I
WAS
GOING TO
KILL YOU.

FOOOOOO



KOKONOTSU
GASHIRA NO...

...RYU NO
HIRAMEKI
NINE-HEADED FLYING DRAGON FLASH

THREE

ONE

FOUR

FIVE

TWO

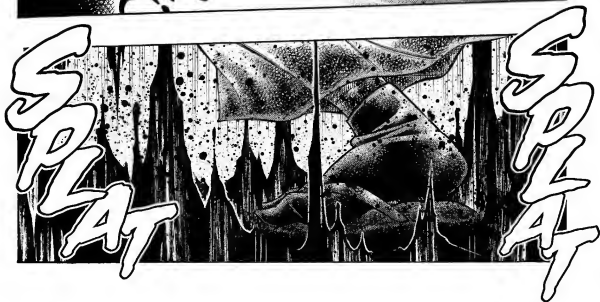
SIX

EIGHT

NINE

SEVEN





INSTANTANEOUS
NINTH CUT!
TRULY
SHINSOKU
(GOD
SPEED)...

ANGLED
UP AT THE
RIGHT SIDE,
THEN THE
LEFT.

ANGLED
DOWN AT
THE LEFT
SHOULDER,
THEN THE
RIGHT.

DOWN
ON TOP OF
THE HEAD.

THEN UP
FROM THE
GROUND IN
A PIERCING
STRIKE!

A
LATERAL
SLICE TO THE
LEFT SIDE,
THEN THE
RIGHT.

I NEVER
STOOD...
A CHANCE...

SO THIS
IS HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU...

KOFF

...TOO
LATE.

IT'S TOO
LATE. IT'S
ALL...

...DIE!

NOW,
YOU...





PLEASE
DON'T
KILL...

IT DIDN'T
KILL ME...
SO
KENSIN...

YOUR
WOUND
...?!

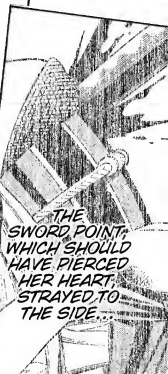
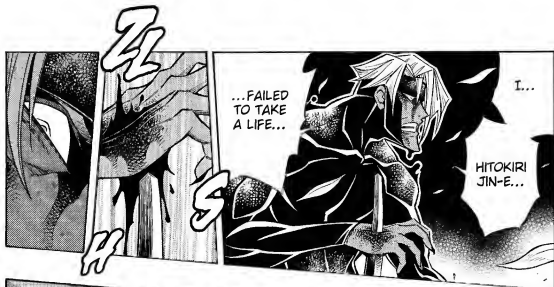
KAORU...
DONO!

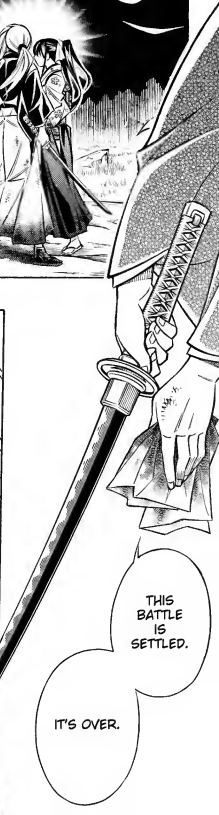
...ALL
RIGHT.
I'M...

SHE
SHOULD
BE
DEAD!!

THAT
CAN'T
BE! I
KILLED
HER!







HA
HA!

HA...

BUT...

FW
P

THE POINT
OF LIFE IS
WHETHER
YOU LIVE
OR DIE...

...MY LIFE
NOR MY
DEATH...

...TO
A MAN
WHO
WON'T
KILL!

I
WON'T
GIVE...

THIS
IS COMING
FROM A
FELLOW HITO-
KIRI, THERE'S
NO QUESTION
ABOUT IT.

WHEN YOU
SAID YOU WERE
GOING TO KILL
ME, THAT WAS
THE REAL
YOU.

IT WAS
BRIEF,
BUT IT
WAS FUN,
BATTOSAI.

...ARE
HITOKIRI
UNTIL
DEATH!

AFTER
ALL,
HITOKIRI...

HEH
HEH...



AFTER ALL,
HITOKIRI ARE
HITOKIRI UNTIL
DEATH...





SO...

...YAHIKO'S
A STUDENT
AT THE
KAMIYA
DOJO NOW?

YES.

A LIVE-IN
STUDENT.

99!

98!

100!

AND HE
WORKS SIX
DAYS A
WEEK AT
AKABEKO.

I TAKE
HALF HIS PAY
AS TUITION
AND A SAVINGS
FOR HIS
FUTURE.

FW

SH

...SECRETLY
GOES
THROUGH
TAE-SAN
TO PAY OFF
TSUBAME'S
FAMILY DEBT.

SORRY IT
TOOK SO
LONG.

THE
OTHER
HALF...



LET'S
EAT!

WOW!
AKABEKO'S
SPECIAL
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
CATERING!

HEY?
WHERE'S
KENSIN?

I'VE
ALREADY
ASKED
TAE-SAN
TO LET
YOU.

OH, I
CAN'T.

JOIN US,
TSUBAME.

THE CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
MAY NOT BE IN
BLOOM YET, BUT
WE NEED THIS.



THE
HIGHER-
UPS ARE
AWFULLY
HAPPY.

TAKEDA
KANRYU
AND HIS
MEN HAVE
ALL BEEN
ARRESTED.

IF
THERE'S
SOME
KIND OF
REWARD, IT
SHOULD GO
TO KAMIYA
DOJO...

THE
CREDIT
BELONGS
TO
YAHIKO.

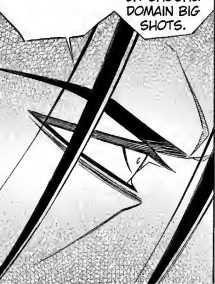
THE
SHANGHAI
CONNECTION
THAT WAS
SMUGGLING
WEAPONS
TO HIM...
...AND
THE ANTI-
GOVERNMENT
GROUP THAT
WAS PLANNING
ON PURCHASING
THEM ARE
BOTH BEING
INVESTIGATED.

"WE NEED
YOUR HELP
LAYING THE
GROUND-
WORK FOR
A NEW GOVERN-
MENT."

THIS IS A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
MINISTER OF
ENGINEERING
ITO HIROBUMI,
WAR MINISTER
YAMAGATA
ARITOMO,
AND OTHER
EX-CHOSHU
DOMAIN BIG
SHOTS.

...HITOKIRI
BATTOSAI,
SHOWS
HIMSELF.

FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN TEN
YEARS,
OUR
FIERCEST
BROTHER...





"COME
HOME,
BATTOSAI."



LET'S
GO HOME,
KENSIN.



YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

YOU'RE
NOT HERE
BECAUSE
YOU WANT
TO BE...

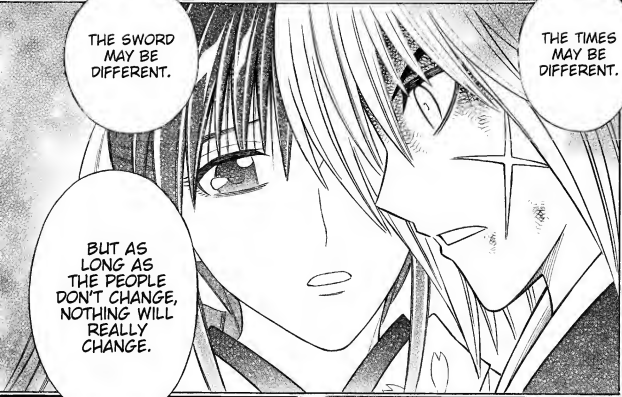


YOU WERE
HIMURA
KENSIN,
A MAN
ADRIPT.

"THIS ONE IS
JUST A RUDONI
ADRIPT ON A
JOURNEY."



THE
PERSON I
MET BACK
THEN WASN'T
A KILLER.



THE SWORD
MAY BE
DIFFERENT.

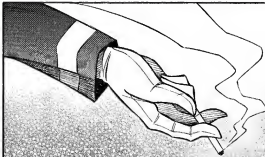
THE TIMES
MAY BE
DIFFERENT.

BUT AS
LONG AS
THE PEOPLE
DON'T CHANGE,
NOTHING WILL
REALLY
CHANGE.

FWF



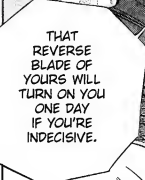
PLEASE
...



I'LL TELL
YOU ONE
THING.



YOU WERE
SIMPLY LUCKY
THIS TIME.



THAT
REVERSE
BLADE OF
YOURS WILL
TURN ON YOU
ONE DAY
IF YOU'RE
INDECISIVE.

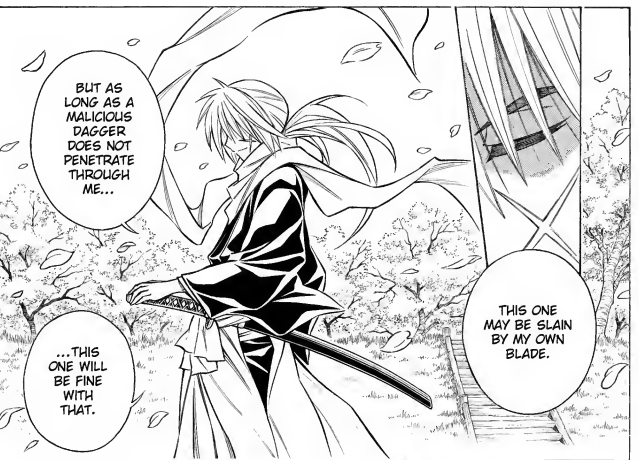


RESOLVE
YOURSELF TO
RETURN TO A
POOL OF BLOOD,
BATTOSAI.



*THIS
ONE
IS...*

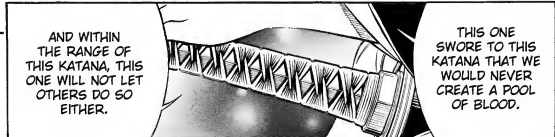
*...A LITTLE
TIRED OF
TRAVELLING
TOO.*



BUT AS
LONG AS A
MALICIOUS
DAGGER
DOES NOT
PENETRATE
THROUGH
ME...

...THIS
ONE WILL
BE FINE
WITH
THAT.

THIS ONE
MAY BE SLAIN
BY MY OWN
BLADE.



AND WITHIN
THE RANGE OF
THIS KATANA, THIS
ONE WILL NOT LET
OTHERS DO SO
EITHER.

THIS ONE
SWORE TO THIS
KATANA THAT WE
WOULD NEVER
CREATE A POOL
OF BLOOD.



YOU
FOOL.



...WILL NOT
RETURN TO
A POOL OF
BLOOD.

THIS
ONE...



THIS ONE IS
RETURNING
TO...

THAT
WAS A
LONG
CRAP!

HE WAS
IN THE
BATH-
ROOM...

HEY,
WE'VE
STARTED
WITHOUT
YOU.



WELCOME
HOME.

KENSHIN.

WHERE
THIS ONE
WISHES
TO
RETURN
IS...



IT IS GOOD
TO BE BACK.

Rurouni Kenshin

— RESTORATION —

The End

仲
月
宏

Rurouni Kenshin: Restoration

The first thing I thought about when starting *Rurouni Kenshin: Restoration* was what should I change besides the structure.

Writing a serial manga is like building a multi-layered three-dimensional puzzle. How do I put together differently shaped pieces to make it entertaining and worth reading every week or every month? It's an organic process, and even the author himself cannot envision its completed form until it's done. One-shots are similar to a flat puzzle. How to best fit together the pieces to turn a limited number of pages into an entertaining and worthy read. The process is like your left brain and right brain asking and answering Zen riddles to each other. If you don't have a clear vision of its completed form, it won't end up the way you want it.

Restoration was a monthly serial (three-dimensional puzzle), but since it's been built once before, the complete form was visible. In that sense, it's similar to a one-shot (flat puzzle) that can be seen from a bird's eye view. I had to first decide what to change and how to change it. I posed myself a challenge: "Express Kenshin's inner feelings."

Early in the original, Kenshin's role was like Komon in *Mito Komon* or Yoshimune in *Abarenbo Shogun*. The supporting characters built the drama and Kenshin was the hero who would defeat the villains. Drama = changes in the characters. So in that structure, it was easy to express the thoughts of the surrounding characters, but not Kenshin's. I decided to dig deeper into Kenshin for *Restoration*.

It was harder than I imagined once I started writing! The process of drawing it wasn't that difficult, but when I tried to make it entertaining, the story ended up getting gloomier due to Kenshin's regrets. I started getting worried during his conversation with Saito in Act 4 and figured it could be a repeat of the Jinchu Arc during his conversation with Kaoru on the bridge.

Honestly, that is when I gave up digging deeper into Kenshin's thoughts.

According to Kaoru Kurosaki, who was writing the novelization around the same time, "Kenshin was depicted more comically early in the original. There were noticeably more comedic elements than in *Buso Renkin*, which you intentionally tried to make comical. Maybe the comical side of Kenshin is a big part of his appeal."

That may be the case. I purposely made Act Zero comedic so it would be more accessible to first-time readers. Both myself and the editorial staff were surprised by how well it was received by readers and how high it ranked in reader surveys. We were told overseas readers wanted it translated as soon as possible. That really opened my eyes.

Honestly, Watsuki is not very good at writing jokes or comedy. I'm well aware that it's not in my arsenal as a manga artist. However, I don't give up on it or take it lightly, because contained in laughter are smiles and happiness, the greatest common denominators.

The opportunity to write two new versions of *Rurouni Kenshin* was truly a gift. Comparing them with the original made it clear to me "what I was writing," "what I am writing," and "what I want to write." The desire to write manga flowed out of me like lava.

I would like to thank the editorial staff, film crew, and mostly the readers who have continued to love *Kenshin* for the past 20 years for giving me such a great gift.

From my workplace in June 2013.

Nobuhiro Watsuki



RUROUNI KENSHIN: RESTORATION VOL. 2
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
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PARENTAL ADVISORY

RUROUNI KENSHIN: RESTORATION is rated T for
Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This
volume contains realistic and cartoon violence.

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